



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/847,935	05/03/2001	David F. Woodward	D2914	6555
33197	7590	12/12/2007		
STOUT, UXA, BUYAN & MULLINS LLP			EXAMINER	
4 VENTURE, SUITE 300			FUBARA, BLESSING M	
IRVINE, CA 92618				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1618	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			12/12/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/847,935	<b>Applicant(s)</b> WOODWARD ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Blessing M. Fubara	<b>Art Unit</b> 1618	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 September 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 60-66, 68, 72, 73, 77 and 87-90 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 60-66, 68, 72, 73, 77 and 87-90 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### DETAILED ACTION

Examiner acknowledges receipt of amendment and remarks and request for extension of time, all filed 9/17/07. Claims 60 and 87 are amended. Claims 60-66, 68, 72, 73, 77 and 87-90 are pending.

**Previous rejections that are not reiterated herein are withdrawn**

***The Invention:***

*The rejections below are based on applicants' claim (claim 60) to composition comprising ion-pair complex comprising a therapeutic component that is adrenergic agonist, efficacy enhancing component and a carrier component, which includes saline. The efficacy enhancing component is selected from fatty acid, anionic polymers and mixtures thereof. The efficacy enhancing component "being effective to enhance the movement of the therapeutic component across a lipid membrane, or biological membrane under physiological conditions" is a property/function of the efficacy enhancing component and a property/function of a product/material or the efficacy enhancing agents is an inherent feature of the product/material or efficacy enhancing component. An ion-pair complex forms between pairs of ions having opposite charge. As is taught in applicants' specification at paragraph 77 of the published application, a complex forms when efficacy-enhancing component is added to a solution containing a therapeutic agent. Thus a solution containing therapeutic component and efficacy enhancing component would have complex formed between the efficacy enhancing component and the therapeutic component.*

*In claim 87, the efficacy-enhancing component is selected from fatty acid, anionic polymers and mixtures thereof. "Effective to enhance movement of the therapeutic component*

Art Unit: 1618

*across a lipid membrane, or a biological membrane ...efficacy enhancing component” is a property of the composition. Efficacy enhancing component that is “present in an amount sufficient to complex substantially all of the therapeutic component in solution” is any amount and the claims have not recited any amount. As it regards the recitation that a molar ratio of therapeutic component to efficacy enhancing component, it is noted that interactions or combinations or take place in molar proportions. According to MPEP 2112.01 [R-3] II, “products of identical chemical composition can not have mutually exclusive properties.” A chemical composition and its properties are inseparable. Therefore, if the prior art teaches the identical chemical structure, the properties applicant discloses and/or claims are necessarily present. In re Spada, 911 F.2d 705, 709, 15 USPQ2d 1655, 1658 (Fed. Cir. 1990.). It is further noted that the amendment filed 9/17/07 excludes cyclodextrin from the composition of claim 87.*

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 87 and 88 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DeSantis, Jr. et al. (US 5,811,443).

DeSantis discloses combination of at least one clonidine derivative, which is an alpha-2-adrenergic agonist, at least one prostaglandin (abstract; column 2, lines 25-37); the composition may additionally contain anionic mucomimetic polymers in amounts of between about 0.05 and

Art Unit: 1618

about 8.0 wt% and specifically pourable liquid formulations contain between about 0.05 and 2.0 wt % (column 8, lines 57-64) of the anionic polymers; the composition further comprises agents for adjusting tonicity and osmolality and those agents include sodium chloride, potassium chloride, mannitol, dextrose, glycerine and propylene glycol (column 8, lines 32-36) and the tonicity agents are used in amounts of between about 0.1 to about 10.0 wt% (column 8, lines 36-38). The composition is aqueous and has pH of between 3.5 and 8.0 and osmolality of between 280 to 320 milliOsmoles per kilogram (column 9, lines 35-37).

Prostaglandin is physiologically active compound derived from fatty acid. Prostaglandin is present at amounts of 0.00001 to 0.2 wt% (column 8, lines 7 and 8; claim 12); prostaglandin is a complex fatty acid as described in the as filed specification at page 13, second full paragraph. The anionic polymer and prostaglandin are efficacy-enhancing components. DeSantis discloses that the ratio of prostaglandin to clonidine is 1:1 to 1:10,000 (column 8, lines 14-17). Since 1 mole of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  combines with 1 mole of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , and 2 moles of  $\text{Cl}^-$  combine with 1 mole of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , it flows that depending on the pH of the medium, ionic efficacy enhancing component and ionic therapeutic agent will combine in molar proportions so that the molar ratios recited in the claims are inherent to specific therapeutic component-ionic efficacy enhancing component pair, which thus meets the limitation of claim 87. In this case, no specific therapeutic agent is claimed and no specific efficacy-enhancing component is claimed. A solution of sodium chloride and water is saline and meets the limitation of saline in claim 1. Since according the applicants' specification at paragraph [0077] of the published application, a complex forms between the therapeutic component and the efficacy-enhancing component in solution, it is plausible that a

Art Unit: 1618

complex is formed between the clonidine, which is the therapeutic component and the anionic polymer, which is the efficacy-enhancing component.

Clonidine is alpha-2-adrenergic agonist meeting the limitation of claims 88. Therefore, DeSantis meets the limitations of the designated claims.

***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments filed 09/17/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that DeSantis does not teach the molar ratio limitation and does not teach the compositions of claims 87 and 88, but DeSantis teaches clonidine, an alpha-2-adrenergic agonist, which is the limitation of claim 88. Desantis teaches a composition that comprises efficacy enhancing component and therapeutic component and because compounds combine in molar proportions, it flows that the molar ratios recited in the claims is inherent in the Desantis composition. Furthermore, as gleaned from applicant's specification at paragraph [0077] of the published application, complex of EEC-TC is formed by adding EEC to the TC so that a complex would also form in the prior art when EEC and TC are mixed or combined. In response to applicant's argument that anionic polymers are not charged at a pH of 3.5, it is noted that the pH of the medium in Desantis is between 3.5 and 8 (column 9, line 36) and the anionic polymer is ionized at pH of greater than 7. The use of the word "plausible" may have been a wrong choice of word, but, as noted above, a complex between a TC and EEC would inherently form in DeSantis since the formation of the complex involves combining EEC with TC (see paragraph [0077] of the published application). Therefore, DeSantis anticipates the claims.

Art Unit: 1618

4. Claims 60-62, 64, 68, 87 and 88 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Uehara et al. (JP 11-130656, computer translated document).

Uehara teaches composition comprising  $\omega$ -3 based polyunsaturated fatty acid and/or its derivatives such as eicosapentaenoic acid, docosahexaenoic acid and  $\alpha$ -linolenic acid at 0.0001-10 wt%, caffeine or theophylline or  $\beta$ -adrenergic stimulant and/or  $\alpha$ -2 adrenergic inhibitor (abstract). The combination of  $\beta$ -adrenergic stimulant and  $\alpha$ -2 adrenergic inhibitor meet the requirements of claim 64. The disclosure of % amount of the fatty acid at 0.0001-10 wt% meets the amount of the fatty acid in claim 60. The  $\alpha$ -2 adrenergic meets claims 61, 62 and 88. Ophthalmically acceptable in claim 68 is the characteristic/property of the composition and the composition of Uehara is capable of ophthalmic use. Since 1 mole of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  combines with 1 mole of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , and 2 moles of  $\text{Cl}^-$  combine with 1 mole of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , it flows that depending on the pH of the medium, ionic efficacy enhancing component and ionic therapeutic agent will combine in molar proportions so that the molar ratios recited in the claims are inherent to specific therapeutic component-efficacy enhancing component pair, which thus meets the limitation of claim 87. Uehara thus meets the claims and in the alternate, the recited molar ratios would be obvious because compounds combine in whole number ratios based on the molar relationships of the combining parts.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments filed 09/17/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that because Uehara describes percent amounts by weight of fatty acids and percent amounts by weight of therapeutic components, Uehara just like “Beck” does not teach molar ratios of EEC and TC according to the recitation of claims 60 and 87, but, Beck discloses molar ratios and as for Uehara, the molar ratio of EEC to TC is inherent because compounds combine in molar ratios and the formation of complex between the EEC and TC, as gleaned from the published application at paragraph [0077] occurs when EEC is added to TC. Applicant further says that combination of ionic EEC and TC is only true for ions of opposing charge and that Uehara does not disclose ions of opposite charges, but while it is so that ions of opposite charges interact, it is noted that there is no recitation of pH in claim 60 or claim 87. It is also noted that the amendment to claims 60 and 87 added a ratio of 1:1, the other ratios of 3:1, 2:1, 1:2 and 1:3 were present in the claims rejected on 5/17/07. The rejection of 5/17/07 did not conclude that the “a person of ordinary skill in the art should combine EEC and TC at these ratios, at a concentration of EEC sufficient to complex substantially all the TC,” as applicant states in the remarks, rather, the rejection says that “the recited molar ratios would be obvious because compounds combine in whole number ratios based on the molar relationships of the combining parts.”

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.



7. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8. Claims 60-63, 65, 66, 68, 72, 73, 77 and 87-90 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gil et al. (US 6,294,553).

Gil discloses a composition that comprises brimonidine, which is a 5-bromo-6 (2-imidazolin-2-ylamino) quinoxaline and an alpha-2-agonist (abstract, column 2, lines 50 and 61; column 3, lines 12, and 37-39), oleic acid or anionic surfactant (column 4, lines 20-22), buffers (column 4, lines 28-37), physiological saline solution and vehicles such as poloxamers and cellulose polymers (column 4, lines 4-10); the composition of Gil is applicable as an ophthalmic with a physiological saline solution as the vehicle and where the pH of the ophthalmic composition is between 6.5 and 7.2 (column 3, lines 65-67). Oleic acid is a fatty acid. Effective amount is any amount. A pH of 7.2 is greater than 7 and lies between 7 and 9 (claims 65 and 66) meeting claims 64 and 65. Oleic acid, a fatty acid and anionic polymers are efficacy-enhancing components meeting the requirements of claims 60 and 87. While claim 68 recites the property/characteristic of the claimed composition, Gill also teaches that the composition is applicable as an ophthalmic composition, thus meeting claim 68. The brimonidine meets the

Art Unit: 1618

requirements of claims 60-63 and 87-90. Since 1 mole of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  combines with 1 mole of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , and 2 moles of  $\text{Cl}^-$  combine with 1 mole of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , it flows that depending on the pH of the medium, ionic efficacy enhancing component and ionic therapeutic agent will combine in molar proportions so that the molar ratios recited in the claims are inherent to specific therapeutic component-efficacy enhancing component pair, which thus meets the molar ratio requirements of claims 60 and 87. Also, regarding the molar ratios, there is no demonstration that the cited ratios provided unexpected and unusual results.

Gill does not disclose the amount of the efficacy-enhancing component. Also, since Gill is silent on the amount of the efficacy-enhancing component, it would appear that all or certain amount of the efficacy-enhancing component would be suitable to provide the desired composition and effect and it is within the purview of the person of skill or of ordinary skill to determine the workable amount of the efficacy-enhancing component. **The burden is on applicant to demonstrate that the recited amounts provide unexpected result.**

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to prepare the quinoxaline composition according to Gill. One having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use amount of efficacy enhancing component effective for ocular composition. And, differences in concentration/amounts will not support the patentability of subject matter encompassed by the prior art unless there is evidence indicating such concentration/amount is critical. "[W]here the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation." In re Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA

Art Unit: 1618

1955). Secondly, there is no demonstration in applicants' specification showing that efficacy enhancing component in amounts greater than 0.2% and less than 10% provides unusual results.

"When the PTO shows a sound basis for believing that the products of the applicant and the prior art are the same, the applicant has the burden of showing that they are not." *In re Spada*, 911 F.2d 705, 709, 15 USPQ2d 1655, 1658 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

### ***Response to Arguments***

9. Applicant's arguments filed 09/17/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that "as with Beck, Gil does not disclose the formation of ion pairs of brimonidine base with an EEC or composition comprising a TC and EEC at a molar ratio of 3:1, 2:1, 1:2 or 1:3 in which substantially all the therapeutic component is complexed with the EEC," but, Beck teaches molar ratio between the TC and the EEC and because compounds combine in whole number ratios based on the molar relationships of the combining parts, and further because as gleaned from the published application at paragraph [0077], complex is inherently formed in the Gill reference between the EEC and TC by adding EEC to the TC. Further, Gill's composition is at a pH of 7.2, which is greater than 7 and between 7 and 9 such that claims 65 and 66 are met. Consideration of the pH supports the occurrence of the EEC and the TC as ions so that the presence of ion-pairs is inherent and molar ratio combination obvious in view of the combining power of compounds. Applicant further argues the teaching of Beck, but this section deals with Gill and not Beck and therefore, no response is made to applicant's arguments (see page 18 of 20 applicant's remarks) over Beck. Table 1 compares brimonidine-linoleic ion pair complex (0.2%) to brimonidine tartrate(0.2%) and saline and the comparison in Table 1 does not

Art Unit: 1618

overcome the Gil reference because a) the comparison is not between the ion-pair complex of the invention and the brimonidine and EEC composition of Gill, b) specific ion pair is used in Table 1 while the claimed invention is generic to any adrenergic agonist and any of the EECs of claims 60 and 87, c) Table 1 compares brimonidine-linoleic acid to brimonidine in saline without the presence of EEC in the brimonidine in saline composition, which is not representative of the Gill composition that contains brimonidine and EEC. There is thus no factual showing that the inventive composition or ion pair provides unexpected results over the composition of Gill.

No claim is allowed.

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

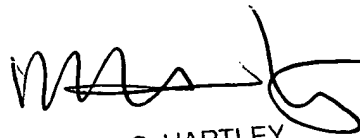
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Blessing M. Fubara whose telephone number is (571) 272-0594. The examiner can normally be reached on 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Monday to Thursday).

Art Unit: 1618

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Hartley can be reached on (571) 272-0616. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Blessing Fubara  
Patent Examiner  
Tech. Center 1600



MICHAEL G. HARTLEY  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER